

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 SSM-03 MCT-01
ACDA-12 /089 W

-----000561 260049Z /62

O R 250011Z MAR 78
FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 611
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T JERUSALEM 877

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR, MARR, UNSC, IS, LE, XF
SUBJ: SIILASVUO'S MARCH 25 TRIP TO SYRIA

1. SIILASVUO SAW FONMIN KHADDAM AND DEFMIN TLASS LATE
AFTERNOON MARCH 25. KHADDAM INITIALLY TOOK POSITION SYRIA
WAS NOT INVOLVED IN PROBLEM OF SOUTHERN LEBANON. SIILASVUO
NOTED SYRIA'S LARGE CONTRIBUTION TO ADF AND CLOSE COOPERATION
WITH GOL AND SAID HE WISHED TO KEEP SYRIANS INFORMED OF HIS
CONVERSATIONS IN JERUSALEM AND BEIRUT RELATIVE TO UNIFIL.

2. KHADDAM WANTED TO KNOW WHEN SIILASVUO WOULD SEE ARAFAT.
SIILASVUO SAID HE HAD SENT A REPRESENTATIVE TO MEET WITH THREE
SENIOR PLO REPS. LATTER HAD SAID PLO WOULD NOT IMPEDE
TASK OF UNIFIL.

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3. KHADDAM THEN PRESSED FOR PROMPT ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL.
SIILASVUO SAID AS RESULT UNIFIL DEPLOYMENT AND UN'S URGING,
SOME THINNING OUT HAD ALREADY TAKEN PLACE. KHADDAM URGED
SIILASVUO TO RETURN WITH TIMETABLE FOR WITHDRAWAL.

4. SIILASVUO SAID ISRAELIS HAD INFORMED HIM SOME 200

SYRIAN SOLDIERS HAD MOVED SOUTH TO HASBAYYA. WHILE GOI DID NOT LIKE THIS, IT HAD DECIDED FOR THE MOMENT NOT TO PROTEST. (COMMENT: THIS DOES NOT JIBE WITH OUR INFORMATION IN JERUSALEM 875.) KHADDAM DENIED SYRIANS HAD GONE TO HASBAYYA. SIILASVUO SAID WEIZMAN AND GUR HAD PRESSED UNIFIL TO CROSS LITANI AND, AMONG OTHER PLACES, GO TO NABATIYA, KHADDAM ASSERTED THIS WAS OUTSIDE UNIFIL'S TERMS OF REFERENCE SINCE IT WAS SUPPOSED ONLY TO OCCUPY AREAS VACATED BY IDF. SIILASVUO POINTED OUT SYG'S REPORT PROVIDED FOR WORKING OUT UNIFIL AREA OF OPERATIONS WITH GOL. STILL UNIFIL NOT PREPARED CROSS LITANI. HOWEVER, QUESTION AROSE OF POSSIBLE ADVANCE OF SYRIAN ADF UNITS TO LITANI. WHILE WEIZMAN AND GUR WERE OPPOSED TO THIS IDEA, SIILASVUO SAID, SPEAKING PERSONALLY, HE THOUGHT ISRAELI POSITION MIGHT BE NEGOTIABLE. KHADDAM FLATLY STATED SYRIAN ADF UNITS WOULD NOT GO TO LITANI.

5. WHEN SUGGESTION OF LEBANESE ARMY MOVEMENT TO THE SOUTH CAME UP, SIILASVUO MENTIONED KHOURY HAD SPOKEN OF THREE HAND-PICKED BATTALIONS. AT THIS, TLASS GUFFAWED.

6. COMMENT: IN VIEW ADF COMMUNIQUE ABOUT CESSATION OF VOLUNTEERS AND SUPPLIES (BEIRUT'S 1617), SIILASVUO DECIDED NOT TO RAISE MATTER AT THIS MEETING ALTHOUGH HE IS SKEPTICAL SUCH MOVEMENT WILL CEASE. WHEN I SOUNDED HIM OUT ON WHETHER, IN HIS VIEW, SUPPORTING DEMARCHES WOULD BE HELPFUL ON ADF ADVANCE TO LITANI, HE WAS CAUTIOUS AND SAID HE
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THOUGHT IT WOULD BE BETTER NOT TO PRESS SYRIANS UNTIL FURTHER DETAILS ON IDF WITHDRAWAL WERE AVAILABLE. GIVEN THIS REACTION, SUGGEST DEPARTMENT AND AMBASSADOR MURPHY RECONSIDER APPROACH ON THIS SUBJECT ON HEELS OF SIILASVUO'S VISIT AND POSITION TAKEN BY GOL REPORTED SEPTTEL.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TROOP DEPLOYMENT, INTERNATIONAL PEACEKEEPING FORCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978JERUSA00877
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780132-0337
Format: TEL
From: JERUSALEM
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780325/aaaaauyl.tel
Line Count: 100
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 91adadbd-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3204031
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SIILASVUOV'S MARCH 25 TRIP TO SYRIA
TAGS: PBOR, MARR, IS, LE, XF, UNSC, UNIFIL, (SIILASVUO, ENSIO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/91adadbd-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014